



St. Croix Current

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September – December 2010

Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center

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"The mission of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world. We accomplish our mission by acquiring and preserving land and wildlife habitat, providing quality environmental education, conservation practices and enjoyable outdoor experiences for visitors of all ages and capabilities."

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Headwater Riffles...

By J. Fitzpatrick

It is always hard to try to think a full season ahead when writing these articles but with so much completed and so much coming up, this time it was easier than most other times.

Since I last connected with you we have completed the 09/10 school program season. Even with our reduced staff, over 7,000 student visitors participated in our programs. Day camps continued to be popular this year and some camps were overbooked because of burgeoning interest from our community. Our weekend family programs continue to enjoy growing participation as do our monthly bird banding programs. Our events this spring were very successful as the 25th Apple Blossom Races hosted our second highest number of runners ever! It is terrific to see so many people working to stay healthy and enjoying the outdoors. The 2nd annual St. Croix Valley Golf Scramble was also more successful than last year with 20 teams participating, and over \$4,000 raised to help keep our school programs affordable and accessible. Autumn in the river valley will bring apples and CNC's crop this year looks good. Our raspberries will again stagger the imagination. Pumpkins and squash are growing well and our October Apple Festival will help to keep the spirits high this fall. I do hope everyone plans to attend our September Raptor Release and Autumn in the Valley Gala. While the Nature Center is not "recession proof", the accomplishments above show that even with the current funding cuts, CNC remains an important resource in the St. Croix Valley and Twin Cities Metro Area. Just imagine what is possible in the future.



Polliwog summer campers enjoyed getting their hands and feet wet catching and releasing tadpoles.



Minnesota's breeding birds such as the Common Loon and shorebirds, like this Spotted Sandpiper chick, may have difficulties surviving their migration through the Gulf.



A programmatic focus at CNC has always been the relationships we find in nature. Every one of our programs highlights the connections between the topic and its ecosystem. A problem in a specific ecosystem is not only important to individuals, but also to humankind and even the world at large. These very concepts have made it to the front pages of global news and recently someone asked me if the gulf oil spill will impact breeding birds we love to watch here in the Midwest. My short answer is "Significantly" but the long answer is very complex and brings to light the interconnections of our world.

How the oil spill will impact our birds depends on the species, their biology and the habitats they use during migration. The spill may be extremely negative for our Common Loons because young loons spend their first three or four years of life in the gulf before returning to the Midwest. Loons also depend on fish for food and if all of the bait fish contain oil residue then the loons will be in serious trouble. When the oil washes ashore in the marshes of Texas and Louisiana, our overwintering shorebirds will definitely be negatively impacted as they forage for invertebrates in the sand. Songbirds returning from their winter grounds in South America often fly across the gulf and seek out the first land on their northward flights. If that marsh, swamp land, beach or bottomland hardwood forest has been polluted with oil, their search for food will be difficult and birds such as orioles and warblers will be impacted. Even tiny hummingbirds depend on food sources in the gulf such as native marshland plants and the insects these plants attract. If all of these species have trouble in the gulf, they may not survive long enough to get to the Midwest next spring. That said, Mother Nature is known for her resilience and with some help and hard work we hope to see that she prevails.

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor before you recycle it.

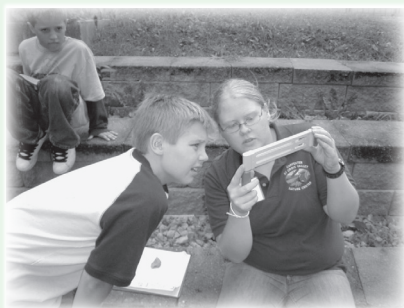
Upcoming Programs

Carpenter Nature Center offers a wide variety of public programs. We invite you to participate in any, or all, of the following programs. **Reservations are required.** For more information, to RSVP, or to schedule a group program please call the office: **651-437-4359**

Friday, September 17

Home School: Change of Seasons & Weather and Phenology

Carpenter Nature Center offers programs for home school students to take part in environmental education programs with other students and enjoy the outdoors. Students ages 5 – 9 will discover seasonal changes in nature by going on a phenology hike and observing live animals that either migrate, hibernate or adapt to get ready for winter. Students ages 10 and older will use



AmeriCorps Promise Fellow Kelly Amoth teaches a student how to read a sling psychrometer which measures relative humidity.



Students learn to measure the dewpoint by taking the temperature at which condensation occurs on the outside of an aluminum container.

The Nature of Halloween

Friday, October 29

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Follow storyteller Roy Edward Power as he winds his way through Carpenter Nature Center telling family friendly tales of ancient customs and remembered things. Learn what is at the heart of our most primitive holiday. Warm up with hot apple cider and dress appropriately since some of the stories will be outside. Program fee: \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 for "Friends of CNC" and children under 10.

Bird Banding

Fourth Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

September 24

November 26

October 22

December 17 (3rd Friday)

See songbirds up close and watch the experts band birds at Carpenter Nature Center. Bird banding records can help us learn how long the birds live, where they travel, when they migrate and many other facts. Our bird banders meet weekly to capture, record, band and release songbirds. The public is welcome to watch the bird banding the fourth Friday of each month. There is no admission fee, but call ahead so we know you are coming. Donations of black oil sunflower seeds and suet are welcomed.

1:00 – 2:30 pm

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES

Fridays

10:00 – 11:00 am

CNC's Preschool Story Times are designed to introduce young children, ages 2 through 5 (with a parent or guardian), to nature in a fun and safe environment. Please call 651-437-4359 to register for any or all of the story times and be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Program fee: \$5.00 per child per program or \$3.00 per preschooler for "Friends of CNC"; no charge for accompanying adult. **CNC Story Time programs have been partially funded through support from Target*

Apples & Pumpkins

September 17

Celebrate the harvest season by visiting CNC's apple orchard to pick apples and pumpkins. This fun-filled hour of activities includes a nature story, visiting the orchard and making fresh apple cider.



Fall is a great time to sample some of CNC's eco-friendly apples with a friend.



Katie proudly displays her pumpkin at the Costume & Critters Story Time.

Costumes & Critters

October 29

Dress up as an animal or wear your Halloween costume to search for the wild critters at CNC. We'll listen to a story, take a short hike outdoors, make an art or craft project to take home and meet some live animals. Costumes encouraged for this one, but we will still be going outside so dress appropriately for the weather.

Turkey Time

November 19

It's time to start looking for turkeys! We'll listen to a story, go for a short hike and make an art or craft project to take home.

Winter Birds

December 3

Join us on a short hike to see what birds are staying here for the winter. We'll listen to a story, make an art or craft project and meet some live birds.



The tiny Red-breasted Nuthatch is a winter specialty at Carpenter Nature Center.

Upcoming Events

More details available at www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by calling 651-437-4359



Be sure to make time for a hayride through Carpenter Nature Center's orchard with Ole (Paul Boettcher) and Sven (Tom Kieffer) during Apple Fest.

Saturday & Sunday, October 9 & 10

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Apple Fest

October is the perfect time for a family visit to the St. Croix Valley. The fall colors are peaking and local apple orchards celebrate the bounty of the season by hosting Apple Fests. At Carpenter Nature Center Apple Fest means that visitors get a chance to take a hay wagon ride through the orchard to learn about our IPM method of growing fruit that is healthier for you and the planet. Other highlights include fresh-pressed apple cider and a splendid array of bake sale goodies. If you don't know the difference between a Connell Red and a Honey Gold, you can sample many of the 14 varieties of apples grown at Carpenter Nature Center.



Local 4H club youth work hard to turn fresh apples into tasty apple cider during Apple Fest weekend.

Sunday, September 12th

5:00—9:00 p.m.

Autumn in the Valley Gala

Hosted by Carpenter Nature Center's Board of Directors and emceed by KARE 11 Meteorologist Sven Sundgaard, this wonderful, fun event raises almost 5% of our annual operating income. Tickets are \$80 per person and sponsorship opportunities are available. To receive an invitation, to inquire about sponsorships, to donate an auction item or to donate wine, contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or by phone: 651-437-4359



Honorary Board Member Daryl Standafer displays a hand made Casanova Glass Bowl up for bid in the live auction.

Saturday,

September 25th

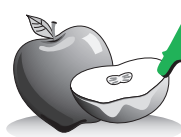
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall Raptor Release

Presented by the 3M Foundation in Partnership with The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota. Rehabilitated birds of prey will be released at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.. Visitors can learn about and photograph eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls. As always there will be many activities for children and you may bring empty printer cartridges to recycle for the raptors.



3M's Bob McDonald releases a rehabilitated Red-tailed Hawk in front of a audience of over 2,000 in 2009.



Apples for Sale

Crisp - Fresh - Healthy

•Pumpkins •Cider •Squash •Honey and more

MINIMUM SPRAY ORCHARD...

Healthier for you and the environment!

Opening Sept. 1st - Nov. 24th

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. DAILY

CNC uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in the orchard, which reduces the amount of chemicals used on the apples, making the apple better for you and better for the environment. The early varieties of apples should be ready for harvest mid to late August. By mid September many of the popular varieties (Cortland, McIntosh, Sweet 16) will be ready, with the Haralson, Regents, Honeygold, Honeycrisp, and Fireside soon to follow.



651-437-4359



CNC News & Events

To receive important updates and program notices please contact Jennifer@CarpenterNatureCenter.org to be added to our email list.

People Profile

Advisory Committee Board Member Bio

Bob Voigt has been a friend and neighbor of CNC for many years. Although they have a Minneapolis residence, he and his wife, **Mavis**, also have a farm and garden one mile north of CNC. Now retired, Bob was a professional fundraising consultant to non-profit organizations to help plan and manage capital fundraising campaigns (including CNC a few years ago). His current interests include creating bronze sculptures, composing music and gardening. Bob is a member of the CNC Friends advisory committee and a member of the Denmark Township Historical Society. Through these memberships and many others, Bob is able to tell friends about CNC's programs and activities and bring them to CNC for on-site visits.



Meet Our Interns

We were very fortunate this summer to have two great interns. **Sarah Nickerson** started her Horticulture Internship in May and had a busy job all summer staying ahead of the weeds in all the gardens, hand thinning the apples and monitoring the insect traps in the orchard, and planting and trimming trees and shrubs. Her big project was to identify and label all the plants in the water garden. Sarah will be returning to the University of Wisconsin, River Falls for her Senior year, working towards her degree in Horticulture with hopes of going on to graduate school.



Hayley Peters was the Environmental Education Intern for the summer and assisted with several summer programs, the week-long day camps and daily animal care. She became quite comfortable feeding the raptors and handled several of the program animals during programs. Hayley has finished her degree in Field Biology at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls and is also serving with the Minnesota Army National Guard. She hopes to continue her career in the military or pursue an outdoor job either with the Forest Service or Department of Natural Resources.



Volunteer Of the Year

In this issue we highlight our Volunteer of the Year – **Tod Stankovich**. Some of you may remember Tod from years ago when he was part of the maintenance staff. Well, after several years in the southwest U.S., Tod is back in the area. Since March of this year, Tod has put in over 500 hours in the maintenance department helping with equipment repair, prairie burns, lawn mowing, and cleaning up the shop so Marty can find all his tools. Thanks Tod for giving your time and talent to CNC; you're one of the best and we are proud to have you as a part of the volunteer corps.



Get to know our Friends of CNC

Longtime Friends of CNC **Sarah Bertsch & Brian Ogren** have lived near the CNC WI Campus for 13 years. Brian recalls one of their first visits from a WI neighbor:

"He introduced himself, welcomed us & immediately asked if we knew about CNC. *You just have to become members*, he said. *It's the greatest organization!*" Their first visit to the MN Campus was the occasion of Sarah's releasing a rehabilitated bald eagle that had been treated at The Raptor Center. Years later, Sarah released a rehabilitated Eastern Screech Owl at the CNC WI Prairie.



Brian works for Ameriprise Financial downtown Minneapolis and is a freelance bass player. He also enjoys building log furniture using cedar from his back woods. Brian's favorite CNC activity has been the All About Owls program. Sarah teaches violin at The Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI and contracts string ensembles for special events. She took a bird banding class with CNC Director Jim Fitzpatrick and volunteered for a time on the CNC bird banding team. She has also volunteered at The Raptor Center (U of M) and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of MN. Brian and Sarah love spending time with their two dogs at their solar-powered log cabin in northern MN.

Recently, Sarah & Brian decided to include CNC in their estate plan. "We support a number of great land and wildlife conservation groups, but Carpenter has directly impacted the quality of our lives. We drive along the CNC Prairie every day. We love to see the harriers, pheasants, kestrels – even an occasional shrike. It's deeply rewarding to know our support of CNC's conservation and environmental education programs will continue for many years to come."

Memorials & Honorariums

We wish to express our appreciation for the following gifts:

Jim & Judy Freund in memory of Dennis Buri
 An anonymous donor in memory of Lloyd (Leroy) Hanson
 Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Richard King
 Larry & Jan Fussell in memory of Chauncey Martin
 Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Chauncey Martin
 Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Jerry Wentz
 Daryl & Jan Standafer in memory of Nancy Zimmerman

South St. Paul Garden Club in honor of Cardinal Corner Bird Stores



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Information Meetings will be held at 7pm on September 15th and November 9th. These informal meetings are for those interested in becoming part of the volunteer crew of CNC. Please call and let us know you are coming 651-437-4359.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Summer at CNC

Volunteers may be needed to help teach the following classes: Apple Orchard, Insects, Plants, Food Chains, and Change of Seasons.

September 25th Raptor Release

We will need volunteers to help with parking, crowd control, information, and in the apple shack area.
 Call to let us know you can help – 651-437-4359

October 9th and 10th Apple Fest

Volunteers will be needed to help with parking, information, hay rides, and many more things too numerous to mention. This is lots of fun along with the lots of work; bake a pie (apple pie is good but if you have your own special favorite recipe that's good too) and bring it in for our Volunteer Bake Sale. Again, call to let us know you are available.

October 23rd 9am – noon Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Let's do our part and cleanup the roadside so it won't distract from the beautiful fall scenery. Bring gloves and your own "litter poking device" if you like. Snacks will be provided as part of your motivation. Please let Alan know if you can make it by calling 651-437-4359 ext 104



Travel to the rain forests of Belize with Jim Fitzpatrick

Carpenter Nature Center is hosting a February 2011 birdwatching ecotour to a private reserve in the foothills of the Maya Mountains. The

Aracaris are just some of the bird species found near the resort.

luxurious thatched roof cabanas are surrounded by tropical fruit trees and rainforest flowers. Participants will tour the ancient Maya ruins, canoe down a local river and take daily excursions to see many of the 300 bird species found in the area including toucans and parrots. Mammals found in the area include kinkajous and agouti. The trip is scheduled for the second week in February and the all inclusive cost is estimated at \$1350 per person. Air fare is not included. The rich wildlife diversity, the fascinating cultural history and plethora of adventure excursions in the Cayo District mean this ecotour will fill quickly. For more information please contact Jim Fitzpatrick at Jim@CarpenterNatureCenter.org or 651-437-4359.

FRIENDS OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

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Check appropriate level:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$25 to \$49 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ST. CROIX SOCIETY | \$1,000 to \$2,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE EAGLE SOCIETY | \$3,000 to \$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL | \$5,000 & Beyond |

Form of Payment:

(Check one)

Copies of this form are acceptable



Cash (accepted in person only)



Check (payable to Carpenter Nature Center)



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PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES

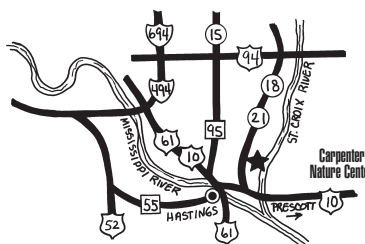
CNC Wish List

Carpenter Nature Center is in need of the following items in good condition:

Black Oil Sunflower Seed & Suet	Indoor/Outdoor
Number 10 envelopes	Extension Cords
Night crawlers and wax worms	Ladder for Interpretive Dock
Hay wagon for orchard tours	Staple Gun & Staples
	First Aid Kit Supplies

A book list is available if you are interested in purchasing a book for use in programs or for the CNC library. Just give us a call at 651-437-4359. Remember that donated items are tax deductible!

Follow us online: www.CarpenterNatureCenter.org, Facebook, Twitter, or www.givemn.org.



Trails and interpretive exhibits are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A trail map (with a self-guided trail) is available at the registration desk where we ask all visitors to check in. Admission is free but we encourage donations which go to help the environmental education programs at the Nature Center.